RELIGION

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE

COURSE GUIDE

2002-2003

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

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DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION
UNDERGRADUATE COURSE GUIDE
2002-2003

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www.kcmetro.cc.mo.us/longview/socsci/philosophy/religion/symbols.htm

This course guide has been prepared months in advance of the 2002-2003 academic year and information contained herein is subject to change. Students are advised not to purchase any texts without the approval of the professor concerned.
Due to the renumbering of courses in the Department, students should consult the list of equivalent undergraduate courses in the back of the 2002-2003 undergraduate calendar.

FACULTY

A list of the full-time faculty follows below. All possess degrees from universities and/or schools of advanced studies that represent the best academic centres for the study of religion in North America and India. All have published books that have made a contribution to their particular fields of study. All have published in learned journals and have given papers at learned societies. They have also won a reputation among their students for being good teachers, concerned about the quality of instruction at Concordia University, as well as for being "available" and committed to the development of a more meaningful student life.

Full-Time Faculty:

Chair

Leslie Orr, Ph.D. (McGill)

Professors

Frederick Bird, Ph.D. (Graduate Theological Union)
Michel Despland, Th.D. (Harvard)
Jack Lightstone, Ph.D. (Brown)
Ira Robinson, Ph.D. (Harvard)
T.S. Rukmani, D.Litt., Ph.D. (Delhi University) ~ Chair in Hindu Studies

Associate Professors

Michael Oppenheim, Ph.D. (University of California)
Norma Joseph, Ph.D. (Concordia)
Leslie Orr, Ph.D. (McGill)

Assistant Professors

Lynda Clarke, Ph.D. (McGill)
Norman Ravvin, Ph.D. (Univ. of Toronto) - Chair in Quebec & Canadian Jewish Studies
Philip Harland, Ph.D. (University of Toronto)

INTRODUCTION TO THE DEPARTMENT

General Objectives:
The Department of Religion is dedicated to the academic study of religions and other social and cultural phenomena in so far as they have been influenced or affected by religions. We are interested in the comparative study of many religions. Although we do study how many religious traditions articulate and defend their own self-understandings, we treat these theologies and buddhologies academically and comparatively.

Nature of Religious Studies:
The academic study of religion is a multi-disciplinary enterprise. It involves the historical examination of religious movements, the literary analyses of their literatures, philosophical reflections on beliefs and teachings, the social scientific investigations of their rituals, practices, texts, and institutions, the psychological study of their participants and ethical inquiries regarding both their moral writings and social roles.

Correspondingly, the faculty in the department have been trained in a number of academic disciplines including history, sociology, anthropology, literary studies, philosophy, psychology and theology as well as in the study of particular religious traditions.

KNOWLEDGE OF TWO MAJOR RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

The Department believes that every Major or Honours student in Religion or in Judaic Studies should possess, at time of graduation, a knowledge of at least two major religious traditions. For example, the student who is pursuing a Major in Judaic Studies will take some courses in a religious tradition other than Judaism. This basic principle reinforces the emphasis upon the centrality of the discipline of the History of Religions. A particular religious tradition can best be understood in the context of the general religious history of humankind.

DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMMES

The Department of Religion offers at the undergraduate level: minors, majors and honours programmes in Religion and in Judaic Studies. The degree requirements for all of these programmes can be found below. We also offer several graduate programmes: an M.A. in the History and Philosophy of Religion, an M.A. in Judaic Studies, and a Ph.D. in Religion. For further information on our graduate programmes, please contact the graduate programme assistant at 848-2077.

Women and Religion:
As part of the Department of Religion's undergraduate curriculum, a concentration in **Women and Religion** is offered. A variety of special courses are included in the regular program for the BA major in Religion. Religion majors can focus on this area for either the primary or secondary concentration requirements.

The study of women and religion is a growing field in which the Department of Religion of Concordia University has long been a leader. This structured concentration solidifies our commitment to this field and enables us to prepare students in a systematic and consistent fashion. The concentration furthers the work of the department in that it will allow students to pursue course work from a comparative, cross-cultural and multi-tradition perspective. The study of the role of women in the history and practice of religion introduces our students to an exciting and vital area of study.

Degree Requirements:

60 B.A. Honours in Religion:

12 In a language related to thesis; or in a related discipline such as: Anthropology English Literature, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Theological Studies, Women's Studies.
6 RELI 211[6] or 214[3] and 215[3]
21 From area of primary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
6 From area of secondary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
6 RELI elective credits at 300 or 400 level
3 RELI 409[3]
6 RELI 410[6]

42 B.A. Major in Religion

6 RELI 211[6] or 214[3] and 215[3]
21 From area of primary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
6 From area of secondary concentration (see areas of concentration below)
6 RELI elective credits at 300 or 400 level
3 RELI 409[3]

30 Minor in Religion

6 RELI 211[6] or 214[3] and 215[3]
24 RELI elective credits (chosen in consultation with Departmental advisor)

48 B.A. Major in Judaic Studies

12 In Hebrew Language: HEBR 210[6], HEBR 250[6], RELI 401[3], 402[3]
6 RELI 211[6] or 214[3] and 215[3]
3 RELI 220[3]
9 Chosen from RELI 301[3], 326[3], 327[3], 328[3]
9 Chosen from RELI 329[3], 334[3], 335[3],336[3], 381[3], 391[3], 392[3], 395[3], 407[3]
6 Chosen from RELI 223[3], 224 [3],302[3], 303[3], 304[3], 305[3], 306[3], 319[3], 340[3], 341[3], 342[3]
3 RELI 409[3]

Areas of Concentration:

A - Asian Religions (21 credits) - chosen from any of the following:
RELI 224[3] Introduction to Islam,
RELI 225[3] Introduction to Hinduism
RELI 226[3] Introduction to Buddhism

RELI 316[3] Medieval Islam
RELI 318[3] Shiite Islam
RELI 319[3] Modern Islam
RELI 340[3] Veda & Upanishads: Fountainhead of Hindu Thought
RELI 341[3] Hindu Sadhana: From Yajna to Yoga
RELI 342[3] The Golden Age of Bhakti
RELI 343[3] From Rammohun Roy to Gandhi: The Hindu Renaissance
RELI 347[3] Religion and the Arts in South & Southeast Asia
RELI 348[3] Religion and Society in South & Southeast Asia
RELI 349[3] Religions of China and Japan
RELI 350[3] Theravada Buddhism
RELI 351[e] From Satyagraha to Svadhyaya: Hinduism in Dialogue with the Modern World
RELI 364[3] Mahayana Buddhism
RELI 383[3] Women and Religion: Islam
RELI 384[3] Women and Religion: Hinduism
RELI 385[3] Women and Religion: Buddhism

B - Christianity (21 credits)

3 RELI 223[3] Introduction to Christianity
9 Chosen from RELI 301[3] Biblical Studies I: The Hebrew Bible, RELI 302[3] Biblical Studies II: Christian Origins, RELI 303[3] History of Christian Thought I, RELI 304[3] History of Christian Thought II,
9 Christian Studies elective credits at the 300 or 400 level

C - Judaism (21 credits)

3 RELI 220[3] Introduction to the History and Religion of the Jews
3 RELI 301[3] Biblical Studies I: The Hebrew Bible
6 Chosen from: RELI 326[3] Ancient Judaism
RELI 327[3] Medieval Jewish Thought & Institutions
RELI 328[3] Modern Judaism
9 Judaic Studies elective credits at the 300 or 400 level

D - Women and Religion (21 credits)

3 RELI 233[3] Introduction to Women and Religion
6 Chosen from: RELI 381[3] Women and Religion: Judaism
RELI 382[3] Women and Religion: Christianity
RELI 383[3] Women and Religion: Islam
RELI 384[3] Women and Religion: Hinduism
RELI 385[3] Women and Religion: Buddhism
RELI 391[3] Women and Jewish History: Ancient & Medieval
RELI 392[3] Women and Jewish History: Modern
9 Chosen from: RELI 372[3] The Human Body in Religious Faith and Practice
RELI 380[3] Sexuality in the History of Religion
RELI 387[3] Goddesses and Religious Images of Women
RELI 388[3] Religious Women: Leaders, Models and Rebels
RELI 389[3] Women's Ritual: Expressions and Expertise

RELI 405[3] Approaches to the Study of Women & Religion:Adv. Seminar
RELI 406[3] Feminist Hermeneutics & Scripture
3 Women and Religion elective credits at the 300 or 400 level

Southern Asia Studies:

The Department of Religion participates with History, Political Science and several other departments in the Southern Asia Studies Programme which offers a major and a minor as follows:

MAJOR (42 credits):
6 credits History 261 and Religion 215
3 credits History 364, 365, 393 or 461
6 credits Political Science 336, 424, 482
9 credits Religion 224, 225, 226, 318, 340, 341, 342, 343, 347, 348, 350, 351, 384
18 credits Chosen from any relevant courses in the core disciplines (not already counted towards the above requirements) or courses dealing with Southern Asia in the Departments of Economics, Education, English, Geography, Sociology/Anthropology orFaculties of Fine Arts and The John Molson School of Business.

MINOR (30 credits):
6 credits History 261 and Religion 215[3]
6 credits History 364, 365, 393 or 461
Political Science 336, 424, 482
Economics 311, 319
9 credits any from Religion 224, 225, 226, 318, 340, 341, 342, 343, 347, 348, 350, 351, 384; or FMST 335
9 elective credits from any courses dealing primarily with Southern Asia, and Special Topics courses in any discipline with a Southern Asia theme or focus. Other courses may be substituted for many of the above with the Programme Advisor's permission.

Please see the Undergraduate Calendar for further details on the Southern Asia Studies Programme.

For more information call:

Dr. John Hill, Department of History at 848-2435
Dr. Leslie Orr, Department of Religion at 848-2066
Dr. Lynda Clarke, Department of Religion at 848-2073

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

Student Advising
Students who have questions concerning their programme of study or need assistance relating to academic difficulties can contact the Department either by phone (848-2065) or email religion@vax2.concordia.ca and make an appointment to meet with the undergraduate advisor.

Undergraduate Listserve
Religion students and students taking one or more Religion courses have the option of being added to the Religion Undergraduate Listserve. This listserve helps to keep students informed of upcoming events, guest speakers and academic deadlines.

Department WebPage
Visit the Department's webpage and find information on the various courses offered, course outlines, faculty research interests, guest lectures and conferences, information on our graduate programmes plus much more.
(http://artsci-ccwin.concordia.ca/religion/reli.html)

THE BOYD SINYARD AWARD

Each year the Boyd Sinyard award is given to the outstanding graduating student in Religion. The award is named after the first chairman of the Department of Religion at Sir George Williams University.

CONCORDIA RELIGION STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (CRSA)

If you are studying within the Department of Religion (i.e. if you are an Honours, Major, Minor or just taking a course offered by the department), you are a member of CRSA. CRSA is a student administered organization dedicated to fostering community and expanding the educational experience of all Religion students. Each year the executive branch of CRSA (five students elected to plan and administer CRSA affairs) offers Religion students the chance to meet each other and faculty at various social gatherings, as well as the opportunity to enliven their education by attending CRSA sponsored lectures given by learned academics and religious thinkers from all parts of the world. CRSA members are urged to take advantage of the student lounge located in the basement of annex R (2050 Mackay). This is a place where students can study, hang out or use the free phone. If you would like more information about CRSA, leave a message in our mailbox at the Department of Religion.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SUMMER 2002

RELI 336/1 – AA (3 credits) May 06 – June 19 T.J. 1230-1500
SEPHARDIC JUDAISM
Instructor: Howard Joseph

This course studies the social and spiritual life of the various communities within the Sephardi world. Topics include Judaism under Islam; the expulsion and dispersion; Sephardi-Maghrebi Judaism; modern times in Arab lands; Sephardi life in the new world, Europe, and Israel. In addition, the philosophical, Halakhic, biblical, and mystical works of Sephardi Jews are examined.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 352 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 353/1 – AA (3 credits) May 06 - June 19 T.J. 0930-1200
RELIGION AND THE ARTS IN THE WEST
Instructor: Sharon Gubbay Helfer

This course is an exploration of the way in which the fine arts, literary arts, and performing arts have given expression to, and shaped the experience of, religious realities in the history of the West, and considers also the ways in which-in a more recent and contemporary context – art may be seen as engaging with aspects of divinity and spirituality.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 398I may not take this course for credit.

RELI 371/1 - CA (3 credits) July 02 – August 14 T.J. 1530-1800
RELIGION AND HEALING
Instructor: TBA

This course looks at the interactions between religious beliefs and practices and healing beliefs and practices, both in traditional and contemporary settings. Topics typically include examinations of shamanism, folk medicine, spiritual healing, complementary and alternative medicine, and the relations between faith and established medical practices. Topics are discussed in relation to various religious traditions.

RELI 378/1 – AA (3 credits) May 6 – June 19 M.W. 1230-1500
DEATH AND DYING
Instructor: Savithri de Tourreil

This course provides a comparative perspective on the variety of conceptions and practices related to death and dying that are found in different world religions. In addition, the course considers how people in contemporary North American society utilize traditional religious concepts and rituals, scientific understandings and medical procedures, or innovative combinations of ideas and practices to cope with the problem of death.

RELI 211/3 - A (6 credits) M.W. 1445-1600
UNDERSTANDING RELIGION
Instructor: TBA

A systematic and topical introduction to the study of religion. The purpose of the course is to enable the student to articulate and investigate questions about the meaning and nature of religion. Problems discussed include the elements of religious experience, forms of religious expression and interpretation, religious communities and practices, and the questions raised by the contemporary interfaith dialogue. Materials are taken from a variety of religious traditions.

RELI 214/4 - A (3 credits) M.W. 1015-1130
(RELZ 214/4)
RELIGIONS OF THE WEST
Instructor: TBA

This course surveys the history, doctrines, institutions, and practices of religions that arose in Western Asia, including Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The course examines contemporary forms of religious life in those parts of the world where these traditions have spread, as well as indigenous religions. The course explores the religious activities and experiences of both women and men within these various traditions.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 213 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 215/2 – A (3 credits) M.W. 1015-1130
(RELZ 215/2)
RELIGIONS OF ASIA
Instructor: TBA

This course surveys the history, doctrines, institutions, and practices of religions that have arisen in and spread throughout Asia, including Hinduism, Buddhism, and the religions of China and Japan. The course explores the religious activities and experiences of both women and men within these traditions.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 213 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 216/2 – 01 (3 credits) T.J. 1145-1300
(RELZ 216/2)
ENCOUNTERING WORLD RELIGIONS
Instructor: TBA

This course serves as an introduction to some of the religions of today's world, and explores several contemporary contexts where people of diverse religious backgrounds come into contact with one another.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 298C may not take this course for credit.

RELI 220/ 2- A (3 credits) M.W. 1445-1600
INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY & RELIGION OF THE JEWS
Instructor: Ira Robinson

This course will examine the history of Jews and of Judaism from ancient times until the present. It will emphasize the continuities, changes and interrelationships with respect to Jewish social, religious and intellectual life through the ages. It will also carefully examine the varieties of belief and practice in contemporary Jewish life.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 222 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 223/2 - AA (3 credits) W. 1800-2015
INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIANITY
Instructor: TBA

A basic introduction to Christianity as one of the major religious traditions of the world, this course provides an overall examination of the enduring structures of Christian belief, its central symbols and rituals; it also indicates how they are articulated in both the Eastern and Western traditions.

RELI 224/2 –A (3 credits) T.J. 1445-1600
INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM
Instructor: TBA

This course introduces students to the life of the prophet Muhammad, and to the teachings of the Qur'an. The historical context of the origins of Islam in Mecca and Medina is studied up to the end of the period of the first four Caliphs. The course surveys the beliefs and practices of Muslims throughout the world, as well as expressions of life and culture in the past and present such as the law (shariah), Islamic arts, and the mystical orders.
NOTE: Students who have taken RELI 313 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 225/2 – A (3 credits) M.W. 1615-1730
INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM
Instructor: TBA

This course introduces students to the history and evolution of Hinduism from its early beginnings to the present. It also provides a socio-historic-cultural understanding of many of the practices and beliefs of present-day Hindus by relating them to the development and growth of rituals and ideas such as temples, festivals, pilgrimage and other institutions as well as concepts like Dharma, Karma and Moksha that have kept alive the Hindu faith and in turn have undergone many changes throughout the ages.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for this topic under a RELI 298 number may not take this course for credit.

RELI 226/2 – A (3 credits) T. 1445-1730
INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM
Instructor: TBA

This course introduces students to the life and teachings of the Buddha, and provides an overview of the development of the characteristic features of the Theravada, Mahayana,

and Vajrayana traditions of Buddhism. Special attention is given to the practices and institutions that are found throughout the Buddhist world--such as reverence for the Buddha, support for the order of monks and nuns, pilgrimage, and meditation--and to developments in contemporary Buddhism.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 350 or 364 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 233/2 - A (3 credits) T.J. 1015-1130
INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN AND RELIGION
Instructor: Norma Joseph

This introduction to the particular problems and issues in the study of women and religion uses case studies from various religious traditions. The course presents a survey of the different levels of participation, the complex ritual activities, and the intriguing divine imagery associated with women that are found in many religious traditions. Questions pertaining to the contemporary feminist discourse on such topics as witchcraft, matriarchy, and goddess religions are also explored.

RELI 298B/2 – AA (3 credits) M. 1800-2015
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: RELIGION AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE
Instructor: TBA

This course will look at popular forms of alternative medicine and religious healing rituals. It will explore the historical and philosophical relationship between religious belief, spiritual practices and types of healing outside conventional medical practice.

RELI 301/2 - A (3 credits) M.W.1015-1130
BIBLICAL STUDIES I: THE HEBREW BIBLE
Instructor: TBA

An introduction to the methods and results of biblical scholarship with regard to the history, culture, and religion of ancient Israel. Particular attention is given to the major religious affirmations and theological concepts of the Hebrew Bible that have become central in the subsequent development of Judaism.

RELI 302/4 - A (3 credits) M.W. 1315-1430
BIBLICAL STUDIES II: CHRISTIAN ORIGINS
Instructor: Philip Harland

A critical survey of Christian origins, this course focuses on New Testament literature and considers historical setting, history of text, religious and cultural significance. Attention is paid to extra-canonical literature and other relevant sources.

RELI 310/2 - A (3 credits) T.J. 1315-1430
CONTEMPORARY ETHICAL ISSUES: PERSONAL
Instructor: Norman Ravvin

This course considers ethical issues arising in the context of personal and interpersonal relations, families and friendships, and health and medical care. These issues are discussed in relation to traditional and contemporary moral perspectives, both religious

and non-religious. Topics covered typically include discussions of conscience and career, privacy, sexual relations, harassment, substance abuse, abortion, euthanasia, and gay and lesbian relations.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 331 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 319/4 - A (3 credits) M.W. 1145-1300
MODERN ISLAM
Instructor: TBA

A study of Islamic religious and social thought in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Islamic liberalism, traditionalism, and fundamentalism are compared and contrasted.

RELI 326/4- A (3 credits) T.J. 1445-1600
ANCIENT JUDAISM
Instructor: TBA

This course examines the variety of Judaic expression in the period of Late Antiquity. This includes the concepts, institutions and literature of both rabbinic and non-rabbinic Judaisms as well as their biblical background. The development of rabbinic systems of thought and law, as well as their expression in rabbinic literature will be considered.

RELI 328/4 - A (3 credits) T.J. 1145-1300
MODERN JUDAISM
Instructor: Michael Oppenheim

This course surveys the major historical events, sociological and political forces, and intellectual currents which shaped Judaism in the modern period as well as the ways that Jewish communities responded to these forces. Among the topics explored are Emancipation, forms of religious adjustment, anti-semitism, the experience of Jewish communities in Russia and North America, the Holocaust, and Zionism and the state of Israel.

RELI 338/2 - AA (3 credits) T. 1800-2015
(cross-listed with Hist 298A/4)
HOLOCAUST: HISTORICAL CIRCUMSTANCES
Instructor: Frank Chalk

This course examines the historical circumstances that made possible the systematic destruction of European Jewry in the years 1939-45, as well as the process of destruction and the Jewish and world responses to that destruction.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 357 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 339/2 – AA (3 credits) T. 1800-2015
IMPACT OF THE HOLOCAUST ON RELIGIOUS THOUGHT
Instructor: Michael Oppenheim

This course examines the ramifications of the Holocaust in Jewish and Christian thought. Issues discussed include the problem of evil; suffering; the election of Israel; God's relation to the course of human events.

NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 358 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 342/4 – A (3 credits) M.W. 1615-1730
THE GOLDEN AGE OF BHAKTI
Instructor: TBA

The medieval period of Hinduism is the period of Bhakti, or devotion. This course looks at the Bhagavadgita, as well as popular regional literature and the lives of devotees such as Mirabai, Tukaram, Tulsidas, Kabir, Andal, and Mahadeviyakka. The course will also examine the Vaishnava, Shaiva and Shakta traditions of devotion.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 321 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 349/4 - A (3 credits) T.J. 1315-1430
RELIGIONS OF CHINA AND JAPAN
Instructor: TBA

This course examines the history of the religious life of the people of China and Japan, exploring the interaction of Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist, and Shinto practices and beliefs.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 316 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 351/4 - A (3 credits) M.W. 1145-1300
FROM SATYAGRAHA TO SVADHYAYA
Instructor: TBA

A noteworthy feature of contemporary Hinduism has been the emergence of several original thinkers who have been devising strategies for dialogue, with the aim of promoting mutual tolerance and understanding among religions and of establishing a network of harmonious relations among the people of the world. This course will particularly focus on how the strategies of satyagraha (soul force) proposed by Mahatma Gandhi, and svadhyaya (reflective self-study) proposed by Pandurang Athavale, may facilitate meaningful interreligious dialogue and the realization of the ideals of social progress, human rights, and equality.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 345 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 364/4 - A (3 credits) M.W. 1315-1430
MAHAYANA BUDDHISM
Instructor: TBA

This course studies the origins and evolution of the Mahayana Buddhist in India, and the spread and growth of various Mahayana traditions in East Asia. It examines developments in texts, doctrine, philosophy, ethical ideals, practices (worship and meditation), and institutions.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 315 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 365/2 – A (3 credits) T.J. 1015-1130
RELIGION AND LITERATURE
Instructor: Michel Despland

This course deals with the questions raised for the study of religion by works of literature. An account is given of the recent development of interdisciplinary studies in religion and literature, and of the problems of method that have arisen. The relation between the interpretation of religious language, with its use of myth, parable, symbol and metaphor, and literary criticism is explored.

RELI 368/2 – A (3 credits) T.J. 1315-1430
RELIGION IN NATIVE TRADITIONS
Instructor: TBA

This overview looks at the many diverse religious traditions of the First Nations populations in Canada. The course examines the sacred stories, ceremonial patterns, life cycle rituals, and religious activities in their varied expressions. Consideration is given to the historical interaction of native government with religious practices.

RELI 370A/4 – A (3 credits) M.W. 1445-1600
TOPICS IN COMPARATIVE RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: JEWISH AND MUSLIM LAW
Instructor: I.Robinson/L. Clarke

At the heart of both Judaism and Islam stands the Law, the "way" (the meaning of both *halakhah* and *shariah*) laid out by God. This course will examine and compare the legal systems of Judaism and Islam through the lense of topics such as purity, bio-ethics, marriage, divorce, and interaction with persons of other faiths. In the process of our study we will consider both the legal literature (for instance, responsa and *fatwas*) and authorities (for instance, rabbis and muftis) of each tradition. The historical development and interaction of the two systems of law and their methods of interpretation are also considered.

RELI 376/2 – A (3 credits) T.J. 1145-1300
PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION
Instructor: M. Oppenheim

This survey looks at various perspectives and methods used in psychology as they are relevant to understanding the role and value of religion for the individual. The course examines the ideas of such figures as William James, Freud, and Jung, among others, and considers such topics as intense religious experience, conversion, images of God, myth and symbol, ritual, and religious and moral development.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 343 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 378/2 - A (3 credits) M.W. 1315-1430
DEATH AND DYING
Instructor: TBA

This course provides a comparative perspective on the variety of conceptions and practices related to death and dying that are found in different world religions. In addition, the

course considers how people in contemporary North American society utilize traditional religious concepts and rituals, scientific understandings and medical procedures, or innovative combinations of ideas and practices to cope with the problem of death.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for Reli 370 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 380/4 - A (3 credits) T.J. 0845-1000
RELIGION AND SEXUALITY
Instructor: TBA

This course examines, from a comparative and historical perspective, the interplay between religion and sexuality. It will look at: 1) the development of attitudes towards sexuality within diverse religious traditions, and 2) religious manifestations of sexuality. Topics will include, among others, human reproduction, gender roles and identity (specifically with respect to women), birth control, abortion, celibacy, sexual variance and homosexuality. Other topics may be selected according to the interests of the class. Lectures and small group work will constitute the major teaching methods. As well, there may be some in-class presentations by students. Readings will be assigned.
NOTE: Students who have received credit for RELI 335 may not take this course for credit.

RELI 381/4 – AA (3 credits) T. 1800-2015
WOMEN AND RELIGION: JUDAISM
Instructor: TBA

This course explores the status and religious roles of women within the Judaic tradition. Its focus is on the practice of the religion, especially the ritual and legal spheres. The relationship between common practice, popular attitudes, and formal legal principles is examined in order to inquire into issues of gender and religion.

RELI 382/2 – A (3 credits) M.W.1615-1730
WOMEN AND RELIGION:CHRISTIANITY
Instructor: TBA

The focus of the course is the role of women and the conflicting patterns of gender construction in the history of Christianity. Through a critical use of primary and secondary sources, both visual and textual, the course explores the sources of women's power and subordination in order to illuminate the relationship between gender and the Christian tradition.

RELI 383/2 - AA (3 credits) T.1800-2015
WOMEN AND RELIGION: ISLAM
Instructor: Lynda Clarke

The course explores past and present debates among Muslims about the ideal status of women in Islam. The historical and textual backgound – the material of the debate – is examined first. The class will then consider how a variety of discourses, ranging from conservative to Muslim-feminist, treat and manipulate this material.

RELI 384/2 – A (3 credits) M.W. 1315-1430
WOMEN AND RELIGION: HINDUISM
Instructor: TBA

This course examines the roles of women in Hindu religious life. The course focuses particularly on the impact of historical change; on the activities and experiences of women in India, in the course of the last three thousand years; and on the relation between Hindu conceptions of "the feminine"and women's situation.

RELI 387/2 – A (3 credits) J. 1445-1730
GODDESSES AND RELIGIOUS IMAGES OF WOMEN
Instructor: Norma Joseph/Leslie Orr

This comparative survey of female divinity and feminine imagery studies various religious traditions. Among the issues to be explored are the imaging of goddesses as mothers; the conception of forces like fertility, energy, materiality, and knowledge as feminine; the correspondences and relations between goddesses and women; and the contemporary feminist recovery of the Goddess.

RELI 389/4 – A (3 credits) J. 1445-1730
WOMEN'S RITUAL: EXPRESIONS AND EXPERTISE
Instructor: Norma Joseph/Leslie Orr

This comparative examination of the contexts and patterns of women's ritual lives looks at various religious traditions. In addition to considering women's activities in formal or public ritual contexts, this course focuses especially on the importance of women as ritual specialists and authorities in the context of the home.

RELI 391/4 - AA (3 credits) J. 1800-2015
WOMEN IN JEWISH HISTORY: ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL
Instructor: Norma Joseph

Silenced and invisible, Jewish women do have a "herstory" that is both different from and illustrative of Jewish history. The course will survey the role and presence of women in Jewish history from ancient through medieval periods. While offering a feminist critique of Jewish historiography, its main purpose is to give voice to the stories of Jewish women rarely ever heard. They were a vital force in the life of the community and their heritage has too often been ignored. Uncovering or revealing their experience is our task. The course will begin will not deal with biblical figures, only what we can learn about the social history of that biblical period. It will conclude with the transition to the modern era.

RELI 398A/4 – A (3 credits) T.J. 1315-1430
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: LITERATURE AND THE HOLOCAUST
Instructor: Norman Ravvin

Religious, historical, literary, and political contexts have been applied to come to terms with the events of the Holocaust. All of these will be relevant as we read important and provocative novels dealing with such issues as ethics, the role of history in the events of the war, the use of humour, and the ways that storytelling can help direct our

understanding of events that are often said to be "incomprehensible". We will also consider the wider impact of fiction dealing with the Holocaust on the popular media, including film, news reporting, and political speech.

RELI 398C/4 - AA (3 credits) M. 1800-2015
GOD'S DEATH, STRUGGLE AND HUMAN MEANING
Instructor: TBA

The purpose of this course is to explore the theme of "the death of God"as a lens that allows us to focus on some of the vital characteristics of modern Western thought, life, history, and art. Specifically, by attending to the rejection or eclipse of religious reality and truth within the 20th century, we will engage some of the major issues that have motivated, shaped, and complicated the contemporary world. Through a comparative examination of "the death of God" idea in philosophy, social thought, theology, and literature, this course will feature concerns such as secularisation and the disenchantment of the world; the crisis of metaphysical reason and morality; the predominance of instrumental reason and utilitarian values; the threat of nihilism; the prospect of atheism; the critique of Christianity; and the search for religious alternatives. In effect, this course will chart the various expressions of, and responses to "the death of God' from within the ongoing struggle for human meaning in a post-metaphysical, post-Christian, post-modern cultural context.
NOTE: This course is crosslisted as LUCC 398L, INTE 398L, and THEO 398L

RELI 398E/2 – AA (3 credits) **M. 18:00-20:15**
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: COMMUNITY AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: CASE STUDY - THE MONTREAL JEWISH COMMUNITY
Instructor: TBA

This course will enable students to learn about the Montreal Jewish Community and at the same time develop leadership skills. Community and leadership development is key to the strengthening of a community. Every year hundreds of students get invloved in volunteerism, social and political activism, and fundraising on behalf of the community. For the most part, involvement at the student level is the first important venture into communal life and leadership. Student ativists are not always aware of larger communal structures, challenges, and decision-making processes.

RELI 398M/4 - A (3 credits) T. 1445-1730
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: ETHICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Instructor: TBA

This course will explore the way different religious traditions conceptualize "nature" and consider why and how belief systems have exerted influence over the way human beings value nature. We will look at the ways in which religious traditions are responding to current ecological problems and how participants of religious traditions interact with and value the non-human environment. We will also examine how contemporary environmental issues (from animal rights to Third World debt) are having an impact on traditional notions of morality. The course is interdisciplinary, drawing on sacred religious texts, anthropological case studies, environmental ethics, eco-theology and, philosophy.

RELI 398N/4- AA (3 credits) W.1800-2015
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: WITCHCRAFT, MAGIC AND RELIGION
Instructor: TBA

In this course we will approach the study of magic, witchcraft and religion from a number of perspectives. We will begin with a review of the history of the academic study of the subject and an examination of whether the different explanations and definitions provided by scholars for magic, witchcraft and religion have led to a better understanding or misunderstanding of these. We will then explore a variety of practices which have been labelled as witchcraft and/or magic, beginning with examples from the ancient world, to indigenous cultures, Europe in the Middle Ages and concluding with contemporary movements. The first goal will be to understand how different cultures understand and explain the presence of witches, magicians and sorcerers in their midst. The second goal will be to understand how the witches, magicians and sorcerers understand themselves. We will conclude the course with a re-examination of the evidence with the aim of better understanding the similarities and/or differences between witchcraft and magic on the one hand and religion on the other.

RELI 398O/4 - AA (3 credits) M. 1800-2015
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: WOMEN AND EAST ASIAN RELIGIONS
Instructor: TBA

This course explores the activities, roles, and imaging of women in the religions of China, Japan, and other countries of East Asia. The impact of Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, Shinto, and shamanistic traditions on women's lives will be examined. The course will focus especially on the importance of women's participation within these traditions, both historically and in the contemporary context.

RELI 398P/2 - A (3 credits) M.W. 1145-1300
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: MYSTERY RELIGIONS OF THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN
Instructor: Philip Harland

This course explores "the mysteries" in the Greco-Roman world, those secretive rituals and gatherings associated with the worship of deities like Dionysos, Demeter, Isis, the Great Mother and Mithras. We will look at literary and archeological evidence regarding the myths and rituals associated with these goddesses and gods, considering the significance of these mysteries for the women and men who participated in them. The course concludes by looking at the relevance of the mysteries for early Judaism and Christianity.

RELI 398Q/4 – A (3 credits) T.J. 1015-1130
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: MYSTICS, HERETICS, AND REFORMERS
Instructor: Michel Despland

The course will examine the centrifugal forces of the late medieval middle ages that

enabled people to express their dissatisfaction with some aspect of the great medieval synthesis. Mystics culitvated a more intense and more personal religious outlook; heretics challenged the hierarchical views dominant in their societies. In the course of the sixteenth century reformers appeared who led people into implementation of new ideas, most of the time on a territorial bases. The course will study works of Erasmus, Luther, the Anabaptists and Calvin as well as the reforming programme of the Council of Trent.

RELI 398T/4 - 01 (3 credits) T.J. 1445-1600
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: ZEN AND THE MODERN WORLD:
Instructor: William Byers

Science is important to all of us whether we realize it or not. It affects, directly or indirectly, almost everything in our day-to-day lives. But, more importantly, it has determined the way in which we think, the way we see the world, our very consciousness itself. In this course we shall examine the way in which our consciousness has been affected by science and technology. We shall do this by examining our own minds and ideas in order to uncover the myths and unconscious assumptions we make about ourselves and the world around us.
NOTE: This course will not require the student to have any formal background in science or mathematics.

RELI 398U/4 - A (3 credits) M.W. 1015-1130
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: HISTORY OF SATAN: EVIL PERSONIFIED IN JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY
Instructor: Philip Harland

This course investigates the origins, development and significance of personified evil--Satan and his demons--in early Judaism and in the history of Christianity. We will consider some of the most important literary and visual depictions of this figure (and his story) from the ancient world through the middle ages to our own day. In the process, we will shed light on how intellectuals thought of this figure but also on how Satan came to play an important role in popular culture from the middle ages to our own day (when this devilish character often makes an appearance in movies).

RELI 398W/4 - A (3 credits) T.J. 1145-1300
SELECTED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: ANCIENT MYTHS, CONTEMPORARY SIGNIFICANCE
Instructor: TBA

In this cousre we will investigate different theories, both ancient and contemporary, from philosophical and allegorical to anthropological, psychological, structuralist and contextual, of myth and its function. We will then examine a variety of myths ranging from the ancient to the contemporary world, oral and written, but also those myths which are expressed in visual representations. We will first examine these myths in their own context in order to see how they interact with the particular communities within which they exist. Then we will use these myths in order to explore and better understand the theories we have already studied. Finally we will examine the existence and use of myths in our own contemporary context(s).

RELI 407A/4 - AA (3 credits) M. 1800-2015
TOPICS IN JUDAIC STUDIES
SPECIAL SUBJECT: JEWISH MYSTICISM
Instructor: Ira Robinson

This course will survey the Jewish mystical tradition from ancient times until the present. It will examine in detail the elite intellectual traditions and spiritual practices, which came to be known as kabbala. As well, it will attempt to understand the ways in which the popularization of those traditions have had an impact on the religious practices and beliefs of Jews.

This course is a seminar-format course in which both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.

RELI 498L/2 - AA (3 credits) J. 1800-2015
ADVANCED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES AND THE NEW MEDIA: FILM, STORYTELLING AND SONG AS VENUES FOR NEW IDENTITIES
Prerequisite: Permission of the Department
Instructor: Norman Ravvin

This course will focus on recent key figures in Canadian Jewish cultural life, who have used such venues as film, popular music, or the novel to convey a sense of transforming identity. Films about A.M. Klein, Leonard Cohen's songs, the fictional work of a variety of writers, and more avant garde media like performance art and video will be considered. As well, new forms of disseminating religious ideas and communal affiliation will be examined, as we view the impact of Chasidism, the role of "memory tourism" to Poland and Israel, and the use of web sites at religious organizations.

This course is a seminar-format course in which both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.

RELI 498P/4 - A (3 credits) T.J. 1615-1730
ADVANCED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION: EAST AND WEST
Instructor: Michael Oppenheim

This course will examine the present and future state of the area of philosophy of religion. It will discuss the ways that Western philosophers look at religion, that is, current theories about religion and the issues that are central to this field. It will also explore recent developments toward a more inclusive understanding of religion, especially one that takes into account non-Western religions and philosophies, including such traditions as Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and possibly Amerindian religions.
Texts: Ninian Smart- World Philosophies

This course is a seminar-format course in which both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.

RELI 498W/4 – AA (3 credits) T. 2030-2245
ADVANCED TOPICS IN RELIGION
SPECIAL SUBJECT: BUDDHISM AND KNOWLEDGE
Instructor: TBA

This course has as its focus the examination of Buddhist epistemology and hermeneutics -- that is, the practical and philosophical dimensions of perception and understanding as these are understood within the Buddhist tradition. Among the issues to be explored are the questions of sources of knowledge, psychological and mental processes which intervene between "things as they are" and our apprehensions of the world, experiential vs. intellectual types of knowledge, and the role of philosophical discourse and debate in attaining the highest goal in Buddhism.

This course is a seminar-format course in which both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students will be participating.

Department of Religion - Timetable 2002-2003

Fall 2002

FALL	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
0845-1000					
1015-1130	215 301	365 233	215 301	365 233	
1145 - 1300	398P	376 216	398P	376 216	
1315 - 1430	378 384	310 368	378 384	310 368	
1445 - 1600	220 211	226 (until 1730) 224	220 211	387 (until 1730) 224	
1615 - 1730	225 382		225 382		
1800 - 2015	298B 398E	383 339	223	498L/697I	
2030-2245					

WINTER	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
0845-1000		380		380	
1015 - 1130	398U 214	398Q	398U 214	398Q	
1145 - 1300	351 319	328 398W	351 319	328 398W	
1315 - 1430	302 364	398A 349	302 364	398A 349	
1445 - 1600	370A 211	326 398M (until 1730)	370A 211	326 389 (until 1730)	
1615 - 1730	342	498P/629R	342	498P/629R	
1800-2015	398O 407A/688B	381	398N	391/680D	
2030-2245		498W/616M			